

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1569

LONDON POUCH BELFAST

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EI, UK, (NI)

SUBJ: SECTARIAN KILLINGS AND SDLP EMBARRASSMENT

REF: (A) DUBLIN 1; (B) BELFAST 164

1. FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED ON BEHALF CONGEN BELFAST.

QUOTE: SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOR PARTY (SDLP) BEING
PRESSED HARD TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR ROYAL ULSTER CONSTABULARY
(RUC) IN CURRENT CAMPAIGN END SECTARIAN KILLINGS. CALLS BY
RUC CHIEF CONSTABLE FLANAGAN, A CATHOLIC, AND BISHOP PHILBIN
FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT HAVE BEEN FOLLOWED BY NORTHER IRELAND
POLICY AUTHORITY REQUESTING MEETING WITH SDLP PARTY LEADERS.
TO DATE MEMBER PARLIAMENT GERRY FITT AND DEPUTY SDLP LEADER
JOHN HUME HAVE SIDESTEPED ISSUE WITH PUBLIC STATEMENTS
RESPECTIVELY TO EFFECT (A) WOMENFOLK SHOULD DISSUADE THEIR
MEN FROM CARRYING GUNS AND (B) LOYALISTS CONTINUE REFUSE
DISCUSS SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL PHASES ADMINISTRATION
NORTHERN IRELAND OF WHICH LAW AND ORDER ONLY A PART.
HUME REJECTED IMPLICATION THAT IF THERE WAS FULL SCALE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR RUC THEN SECTARIAN ASSASSIN-
ATIONS WOULD CEASE.

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2. SDLP IN DILEMMA. MOST LOYALIST AND MODERATE POLITICAL GROUPS HAVE DECLARED SUPPORT FOR RUC IN CAMPAIGN. AS STRONGEST POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVE MINORITY COMMUNITY SDLP MUST TAKE STAND. LEADERS CANNOT REMAIN MUTE AND INCUR CHARGES THAT CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SOFT ON KILLERS. AT SAME TIME, SDLP LEADERS BELIEVE THEY CANNOT URGE SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATION WHICH MINORITY BELIEVE HAS PAST HISTORY SECTARIAN REPRESSION. UME TOLD CONSUL GENERAL OCTOBER 29 THAT SDLP MIGHT AS WELL HAND IRA LOADED GUN WHICH THEY COULD USE CONVINCE CATHOLICS THAT FINALLY IRA ONLY ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD PROTECT THEM.

3. DESPITE RECURRING APPEALS FOR ALL SEGMENTS NORTHERN IRELAND COMMUNITY JOIN UNDERMANNED RUC OR RESERVE, APPLICATIONS FROM CATHOLICS GREATLY OUTNUMBERED BY THOSE FROM PROTESTANTS. MANY CATHOLICS BELIEVE EXTREMIST LOYALISTS JOINING RUC AND RESERVE AND ULSTER DEFENSE REGIMENT (UDR) AS FALLBACK SINCE HMG PROHIBITED FORMATION "THIRD FORCE." THERE ALSO VERY REAL DANGER OF IRA REPRISALS ON CATHOLICS WHO JOIN RUC OR UDR. SPICER. UNQUOTE.
MOORE

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